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10/677,273	10/03/2003	Michel Linares	Q77862	8742

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EXAMINER	
SAN JUAN, MARTINJERIKO P	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2432	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/677,273	LINARES, MICHEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MARTIN JERIKO P. SAN JUAN	2432	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 October 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *03 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to Applicant's RCE filed on October 8, 2008.

Claims 1-8 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed October 8, 2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-8 under Swensen in view of Hakkarainen have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swensen [US 5420883], and further in view of Lonn [NPL 1999], Fuhrmann [US 2003/0067873 A1], and Keller [US 7200233 B1].

With regard to claim 1, Swensen discloses a secure method of exchanging information messages sent successively from a sending platform to a receiving platform [Swensen, Fig 1], the method comprising: TDMA communication [Swensen 5: 47].

Swensen does not explicitly teach:

b) an information message transmission sequence in which: said information messages are sent successively by sending platform at given time intervals ΔT_E based on a clock specific to sending platform.

Lonn teaches TDMA communications, the method comprising: b) an information message transmission sequence [Lonn Fig 2] in which: said information messages are sent successively [Lonn Section 2, Par 3 –once every TDMA cycle] by sending platform at given time intervals ΔT_E [Lonn Section 2, Par 3 –length of TDMA cycle].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Swensen by incorporating the methods of TDMA communications as taught by Lonn. The suggestion/motivation would have been to implement TDMA communications network [Swensen 5: 47].

Swensen in view of Lonn does not teach clocks specific to sending platform have a sending time tolerance, δ.

Fuhrmann teaches that in TDMA communications, local independent clocks are used with a tolerance of, δ [Fuhrmann 2: 0018].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Swenson in view of Lonn by incorporating a tolerance, δ, in the communications as taught by Fuhrmann. The suggestion/motivation for combining would have been to increase the precision of synchronizing TDMA communication between transmitters and receivers by knowing that independent clocks have tolerances of δ [Fuhrmann 2: 0018].

Swenson in view of Lonn and Fuhrmann would have taught that the first message M_1 is sent at date t_1 on said clock and the n^{th} message M_n is sent at the date $t_n = t_1 + (n-1) * \Delta T_E + \delta$ [This equation describes the expected result of Swenson in view of Lonn and Fuhrmann which can be used to determine the timeslot based on messages being sent with respect to each other at different time cycles and the tolerance of the clock used.]

and said messages received by receiving platform are processed as a function of their reception date t_r based on a clock specific to receiving platform [Swenson: Fig 20, Itm 334 -- Internal clocks of transmitter and receiver modules.] [Lonn Section 1: Par 2-3].

Swenson in view of Lonn and Fuhrmann does not teach the method comprising: a) an initialization sequence in which an initialization message containing information relating to a date t_1 for sending a first information message M_1 is exchanged between sending platform and receiving platform so that sending platform and receiving platform know said date t_1 for sending said first information message M_1, and each message M_n being coded by means of a dynamic code C_n specific to said date t_n of sending said message, and said messages received in a same observation time window F_n containing t_n with a width ΔT_F are decoded using a decoding sequence DC_n adapted to decode said dynamic code C_n, regardless of an unsuccessful decoding of the previous message M_{n-1}, said clock of said receiving platform being synchronized to said date t_1 on receiving said first message M_1.

Keller teaches encrypting messages utilizing TDMA communications between a transmitter and a receiver [Keller 1: 1-18], the method comprising:

a) an initialization sequence in which an initialization message [Keller 8: 25 --broadcast signal] containing information relating to a date t_1 [Keller 8: 25-36] for sending a first information message M_1 is exchanged between sending platform and receiving platform so that sending platform and receiving platform know said date t_1 for sending said first information message M_1, [Keller 8: 25-36 --Synchronization for establishing start of encrypted communication associated with the first timeslot number, TSN, between the

sending and the receiving platforms.] and each message M_n being coded by means of a dynamic code C_n specific to sad date t_n of sending said message [Keller 5: 46-54], and said messages received in a same observation time window F_n containing t_n [Keller 5: 10 --TSN] with a width ΔT_F [Keller Fig 6: length of each time slot] are decoded using a decoding sequence DC_n adapted to decode said dynamic code C_n [Keller 5: 38-40], regardless of an unsuccessful decoding of the previous message M_{n-1} [Keller 5: 52 -- Encryption/decryption of messages is not dependent on previous message data.], said clock of said receiving platform being synchronized to said date t_1 on receiving said first message M_1 [Keller 8: 25-36 --Synchronization for establishing start of encrypted communication associated with the first timeslot number, TSN, between the sending and the receiving platforms.].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to extend Swensen inview of Lonn and Fuhrmann's spread spectrum (TDMA) communication to include dynamic encryption/decryption as taught by Keller so that certain messages M_n can only be accessed at certain TDMA cycles/periods, t_n. The suggestion/motivation for combining would have been to include dynamic encryption/decryption of messages in TDMA communication for security.

With regard to claim 2, the combined inventions of Swensen in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller teach the secure method claimed in claim 1 of exchanging information messages, wherein during said initialization sequence a) a coded initialization message M_0 is sent from said sending platform to said receiving platform and a coded initialization message M'_0 is sent from said receiving platform to said sending platform,

said initialization messages M_0, M'_0 containing the information relating to said date t_1 for sending said first information message M_1, and said initialization messages M_0, M'_0 being decoded by said sending platform and said receiving platform which then know said date t_1 for sending said first information message M_1 [US PN 5420883, Col 13, Ln 26-47 – Swensen discloses the means for Control stations and Wayside Stations to communicate and achieve synchronized communication.] [Keller 8: 25-36 -- Synchronization for establishing start of encrypted communication associated with the first timeslot number, TSN, between the sending and the receiving platforms.].

With regard to claim 3, the combined inventions of Swensen in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller teach the secure method claimed in claim 1 of exchanging information messages, wherein, if said first message M1 is not received within an allotted time after reception of said initialization message, said clock of said sending platform is automatically synchronized to said date t1 at the moment corresponding to the end of the allotted time [Keller 8: 30-31].

With regard to claim 4, the combined inventions of Swenson in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller teach the secure method of exchanging information messages, wherein said observation window Fn corresponds to a time window $[t_1 + (n-1) * \Delta T_E - \Delta T_F * \varepsilon, t_1 + (n-1) * \Delta T_E + \Delta T_F * (1-\varepsilon)]$; where the width of the observation window ΔT_F satisfies the equation $\Delta T_F < \Delta T_E$ and ε is from 0 to 1. [This equation is an expected result and applicable in TDMA communication since it gives the time coordinate of a certain timeslot in a given time period.]

With regard to claim 5, the combined inventions of Swenson in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller teach a secure method of exchanging information messages, wherein a clock synchronization signal is sent regularly by sending platform between sending messages M_n. [Swensen, Col 19, Ln 64-68].

With regard to claim 6, the combined information of Swenson in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller teach a secure method of exchanging information messages, where information messages decoded by receiving platform are transmitted to an information processing module [Swensen, Fig 11 – Messages regarding train speed, update, and control are transmitted to various information processing modules.].

With regard to claim 7, the combined inventions of Swenson in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller discloses a secure method of exchanging information messages, where messages received by receiving platform during an observation window F_n are stored sequentially in a memory able to store only one message at a time and only the message stored in memory at the end of observation window F_n is transmitted to said information processing module. [Swensen, Fig 22-26 – demultilplexing data and processing.]

With regard to claim 8, the combined inventions of Swenson in view of Lonn, Fuhrmann, and Keller discloses a secure method of exchanging information messages, where sending platform is part of a centralized control station of a rail traffic supervision and control system, receiving platform is part of a fixed installation disposed alongside a rail track, and information processing module is a control unit on board a train circulating on a track section associated with fixed installation. [Swensen, Fig 1]

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARTIN JERIKO P. SAN JUAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7875. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30a - 6:00p EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MJSJ/
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